

**From:** Richard Plevin  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 9:13pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I am a professional software engineer, with BS/MS in Computer Science and 20 years experience in the field. I have programmed in DOS, Windows, various flavors of UNIX, and other environments.

Microsoft's unfair practices were well known back in the mid-eighties when I was programming in DOS on an 286-class machine.

I have seen everal far better technologies come and go in this period, unable to compete with the monopoly. While Microsoft claims that it operates in the public interest, innovating and ushering in new technology, the opposite has been true. They have snuffed out innovators (a.k.a. competitors) using a variety of legal and illegal means. I would estimate that Microsoft's practices have set the software industry back a decade.

That Microsoft is a monopoly, and has used this position in an anti-competitive manner is beyond dispute. It has a long history of doing so.

As long as Microsoft maintains an operating system monopoly, they will continue to stifle innovation and make it extremely difficult for innovators to bring any (even superior) product to market.

I was pleased when the company was to broken up. It still makes sense. I am very disappointed to see the Dept. of Justice backing down.

Sincerely,  
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